

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

An action upon the merits of Claims 92-120 is solicited.

Applicants traverse the election/restriction requirement. Restriction has been required between

- I. Claims 92-120, drawn to a filter for filtering gases, classified in class 96, subclass 4.
- II. Claims 121-153, drawn to a process of making a filter, classified in class 264, subclass 42.
- III. Claims 154-156 drawn to a process of filtering with a composite filter, classified in class 95, subclass 45.

It is first noted that Claim 153 should be assigned to Group III rather than to Group II. A statement to that effect is respectfully requested.

In regard to the restriction requirement between Groups I and III, the assertion that the filter of Group I can be used in a process unlike that set forth in the claims of Group III, e.g., for gas separation, is not supported by any reason justifying the statement. The Examiner's burden involves supplying such reasons.

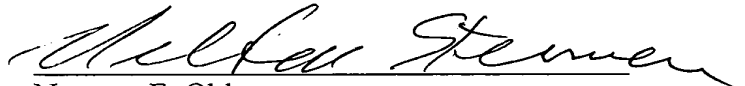
It would also appear that a complete search of the Group I claims should include a consideration of the process for making the filter, while the use of a filter for filtering would seem to be a search that strongly overlaps that for the filter.

Application No. 09/956,915  
Reply to Office Action of September 24, 2003

The requirement for restriction is therefore requested be withdrawn and an action  
upon the merits of all claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Norman F. Oblon", written in dark ink.

Norman F. Oblon  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 24,618

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)  
NFO/MNS/cja

Milton Serman  
Registration No. 27,499